MONTEREY NEWS

June 2015

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The Annual Town Meeting

by Laurie Shaw

In keeping with the long-standing history of New England town meetings, eighty-one Monterey citizens gathered in the fire house on May 2 to determine the financial course for the town for the next fiscal year. New additions to the meeting this year included hanging microphones and individual amplification devices which improved the ability of everyone to hear and participate in the discussion.

The day started off promptly at 9 a.m. with a special town meeting listing only two articles on its warrant. The first article, to fund a new truck for the highway department, required a secret ballot. There was no discussion and the article passed by 43 to 5. The sec,ond article, which involved a transfer of funds from free cash to the health insurance account, also passed with no discussion.

When that was done, it was 9:30 and time to start the annual town meeting.

(cont. on p. 2)

The Town

By David Irland

Notes on select board meetings from April 21 through May 18.

New Select Board

As of May 4, Wayne Burkhardt, select board chair, after serving nine years, left his seat vacant, by praising his co-workers for their ability to learn and adapt, and keep their cool, saving special praise for

(cont. on p. 4)

Bonner McAllester

The Mt. Everett marching band played a rousing rendition of our national anthem during the Memorial Day parade. For more photos of the parade and the Memorial ceremony at Veterans Park, see p. 8 and 9.

(Annual Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1)
The reading of the lengthy warrant was mercifully waived and the work began. Articles 1 and 2, which involved acting on the reports of the officers of the town and setting salaries for the select board, assessors, and board of health, passed easily. Then came the budget.

Select board member Kenn Basler put a hold on the moderator's salary, indicating that the 2% raise given to other town employees had been overlooked for this position and asked that the salary be amended to read $306 instead of $300. Barbara Swann made a suggestion that the salary be raised to $400, but a look from moderator Mark Makuc and a comment that "we've already discussed this" quickly quelled that motion. Amendments to the tree warden and school committee representative's salaries were also made for the same reason.

The big-ticket item, the schools operating and transportation line item, did not generate a great deal of discussion. Jon Sylbert asked if any of the funds were going to the Monterey school. Bruce Turner, business administrator for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, replied "not specifically" but there was the potential for some cost-sharing in cooperation with the town. He indicated the increase in the budget did not reflect an increase in expenses but rather a shift in the formula used to determine each town's responsibility. Superintendent David Hastings expressed his appreciation to the town for their ongoing support of the schools. He said that unlike other school districts in the area, enrollment has been steady and that there are currently ninety students from Monterey receiving their education at the SBRSD.

With regard to the highway capital line item, Susan Cooper asked about the reason for the increase in the budget. Shawn Tryon, director of operations, indicated that as part of a ten-year plan to maintain the roads, a budget increase was needed. Additional questions from Ms. Cooper about increases in the library and parks commission budgets were answered and received no further comment. Article 3, enabling the town to raise and appropriate $3,952,018 for town expenses, was passed.

One of the most controversial items on the warrant was Article 4, which asked the town to appropriate $350,000 for the construction of a new transfer station. It was explained by Don Clawson that there was just not enough information available for the finance committee to support this item at this time. Kenn Basler spoke at length about the necessity for a new transfer station. He indicated that it is deteriorating badly and that the conditions there will eventually result in a serious situation. There have already been a few accidents involving cars and people. He noted that there has been "too small a dump on that site for too long" and that it would be easier to build a new transfer station on a nearby site rather than to try to fix the old one. When Mary Paul Yates inquired what the town would get for that amount of money, Basler replied that the majority of the cost would be the dumpsters and the cement. He said there would be five dumpsters which fill from the top and plenty of parking. On the plus side, revenue from recycling would jump from about $2,000 to $10,000 a year. In addition, Basler said the town would save about $10,000 per year in operating costs with a new facility. He indicated that the cost of the new transfer station will likely be closer to $300,000 but will certainly not exceed $350,000.

Larry Klein asked if the current transfer station was compliant with state standards. Basler said "it's right on the edge" and will be non-compliant if something is not done soon. The new structure could be completed in the fall, with the old one operating until that time. Kay Purcell expressed concern about the fate of the swap shop, and Basler replied that it is "incredibly popular" and part of the current problem is that people leave their cars in positions that block the dumpsters while browsing in the shop. The new site

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would include a swap shop that would be safely accessible. After a comment from Barbara Swann thanking the select board for trying to deal with this situation, a secret ballot took place and Article 4 passed with a vote of 70 to 15.

The next few articles passed without any difficulty. These included an appropriation to replace half the roof on the town hall, to provide new turnout gear for the fire company, and to purchase a new police cruiser. Article 9 revisited the decades-old concerns about the Monterey school building. The article to appropriate $10,000 for repairs to the school drew many comments. Jon Sylbert cautioned about putting money into a school that may be closed. However, school committee representative Maria Rundle countered with the point that there is a twelve-step process before the school can be closed and the school committee has voted three times to keep the program going. She said there is a special fund for capital projects to which Monterey can apply for funds. The question of who is responsible for repairs to the building is a thorny one. The town owns the building but the SBRSD provides the program. Rob Hoogs questioned if the $10,000 was part of a larger plan to renovate the building. Kenn Basler replied that "the district has let us down" and the $10,000 is for the purpose of safety, specifically to repair the sagging bathroom floor in the building. The building is in need of $70,000 worth of repairs and this appropriation is a small part of the overall need. He noted that the school district will be supplying the tiles for the floor. Mary Ellen Brown shared her opinion that the town should not fund this because it is the responsibility of the SBRSD and that voting for this would be "step one on a slippery slope." Steve Weisz said he would be livid if a child of his got hurt using the bathroom and that this is a matter of safety. In the end the article passed, but the subject of the Monterey school building is one that will require further discussion between the town and the school district. (See p. 10.)

The pace picked up considerably after that. Funds were appropriated for the Southern Berkshire Regional Planning Committee, repairs to Bally Gally (the town-owned rental house on the Wilson-McLaughlin property), the community septic loan program, and the stabilization fund. Articles about retiree health and life insurance, the salt storage shed, the

(cont. on p. 5)

Stephen Moore

The meetinghouse received a fresh painting in time for the Memorial Day parade. Keep in mind that there are other aspects to this project, so it's not too late to contribute to the renovation of this Monterey landmark. Contact liz@goodman.md.

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(Annual Town Meeting, cont. from p. 3)
grader, the fire company rescue vehicle and tools, and the veteran's memorial were quickly dispatched. A transfer of funds was approved to reduce the tax levy. There was a brief discussion as to whether or not Article 22, regarding the highway capital funds account, should be voted on by secret ballot, but as this had never been an issue before, it was passed by a voice vote.

Article 23 brought up the possibility of hiring a town administrator. Steve Weisz said that the idea was premature since the town hall restructuring committee has not yet completed its work. Jon Sylbert spoke in favor of the idea saying that the town is dealing with the biggest budget ever and it's time to get professional help. Larry Klein concurred, saying that we need someone with sufficient experience to run a 4-million-dollar business, not just have three CEO's. He said that Monterey "is a great place to live but not a great place to work." There was a lot of back and forth about the idea of a town administrator, and Kenn Basler clarified things by saying that the select board would like permission to just look at the possibility of a change in the way the town is administered and to try to plan ahead and analyze the needs. He pointed out that there was no money attached to the article and that any hiring would have to be approved at another town meeting. Barbara Swann proposed an admendment to the wording of the article, adding that the position should be advertised and that the term of office should be reduced to one year. The amendment was passed, as well as the article, with count of 66 to 10.

(The Town, cont. from p. 1)
Melissa Noe, the town's administrative assistant. Speaking of the fine work she'd done during his tenure, he described her ability to "bend to the wishes of the select board" but "resisting when pushed in the wrong direction," and also praised her attention to detail and research. All of the people he'd worked with, in short, made it "easy to chair the board."

Highway

Shawn Tryon, director of operations, met with the board to discuss progress on the culvert replacement project in Monterey, as well as the latest design update. He also reported he was making arrangements with Forsythe Engineering for ongoing updates on the Route 23 project to be fed to Melissa Noe to be included in the News and Events page of montereyma.gov.

Two more routine articles on the warrant passed, and two were passed over because they were irrelevant at that time. Before the meeting ended, Scott Jenssen offered his thanks and appreciation to Wayne Burkhart for his nine years of work on the select board and his long service to the town. Kenn Basler asked for a round of applause for long time volunteers Dan Moriarity, who is leaing the Finance Committee, Laurie Shaw, who has resigned as a library trustee, and Josh Allentuck, who will no longer be on the parks commission.

A vote to adjourn was taken at 11:55, and once again, under the capable direction of town moderator Mark Makuc (in his thirty-first year as moderator), democracy on a small scale prevailed in Monterey.

—Laurie Shaw

Mr. Tryon also reported that Don Hopkins has resigned his position at the highway department effective April 30. A job description was to be run for two weeks in the *Shopper's Guide* and posted on the town website.

The board took up a discussion concerning the current mandatory fire training for all highway department members (as stand-in firefighters), training for which they get paid. However, all the current fire company members have been donating their training pay to the fire company to help with the mortgage. It was felt that this requirement might be an unusual request for a new hire. The board decided to take a "wait and see" attitude, depending somewhat on the individuals who apply for the position.

On May 3, Mr. Tryon reported that he'd graded several back roads that were still sporting ice and piles of snow in spots. Also, Mr. Tryon pointed out that the town still needs a new boat to replace the current airboat purchased some years ago. This short-lived discussion ended almost as soon as it began.

Town Hall

Barbara Gauthier accepted a position as a financial consultant to the town, primarily

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to help smooth the internal functions of the treasurer's office.

Julio Rodriquez asked the board if the opportunity still existed for retired persons and seniors to do weekly volunteer work in exchange for lowered taxes, and he got an affirmative response. He was instructed to speak to the treasurer about the specifics. Mr. Rodriquez suggested putting it more in the hands of the administrative assistant to improve access (since the treasurer works limited hours). The wage for such work is currently minimum wage, up to $1,000 per year. Volunteers must be over sixty years of age and own property in town. Only one household member is authorized to apply. Jobs currently available are beach attendant, swap shack attendant, and emptying trash containers at the beach and the playground.

Community Center

Michael Banner appeared before the board to talk about his mowing schedule. Mr. Banner volunteered to mow the property last year. He submitted a sample invoice from 2014 as a way to help the board with future planning for that work, and to inform any future mower. He mowed approximately once each week for two to three hours, over five and a half months. Mr. Banner stated that he'd started out mowing the entire property as far as the Bally Gally line with a brush hog, but after working the growth down, was now mowing just grass for most of the property.

Mr. Banner also spoke about the budget for the rest of the community center project, having received multiple bids for the electrical work, soffits, and porch foundation. He estimated it will cost about $77,000 for Eric Pederson Builders to finish the job. According to Mr. Banner, the project had about $19,000 in the bank,and would be looking for another $58,000 to finish; he hoped to begin approaching banks for donations to finish the kitchen, bathroom, and other work, and would also continue to solicit the rest of Monterey for construction donations.

Scott Jenssen, select board member (at the time; currently chair), requested a start-to-finish ballpark figure for the project, which Mr. Banner estimated to be under $300,000. Mr. Banner cited some overruns, one of the more notable ones being the difficulty of fitting the factory-square SIP, (structural insulated panels) to a very un-square building, a challenge that ended up taking two weeks rather than the estimated four days. However, Mr. Banner said, the town now had a "square and plumb" community center. (He also cited the difficulty of getting a plumber to call him back with a quote, let alone finessing several quotes from such busy tradespeople.) Mr. Banner closed with an open invitation for volunteer help at the center.

Transfer Station

The ongoing problem of the transfer station came up in the normal rounds of the select board. Select board member Kenn Basler rehashed some of the bigger issues:

- Traffic control at the current facility is a challenge and will need to be addressed.
- The transition to the new facility will be challenging to manage, and is something that needs to be planned for in advance.
- Mr. Basler suggested raising the dump sticker fee of from sixty to seventy-five dollars to increase the percentage of costs the fee covers.
- Too many large trucks have been dumping "dumpster-sized loads," and therefore construction waste is something that needs to be looked at more closely.

Discussion took off around the specter of proposed raises in fees, when people in town were already being asked to approve of $350,000 for a new transfer station. However, it was felt necessary to control the flow of garbage into the Monterey transfer station somehow, otherwise, according to Mr. Jenssen, "tip fees will be nuts," (referring to the charges the town incurs every time it empties a full dumpster). Mr. Basler then repeated his interest in forming a solid waste committee as a way of "getting ahead of" the problem. Mr. Jenssen proposed that this be something the new member of the board might want to take on (elections had not yet been held).

The new member of the select board ended up being Steven Weisz, winner of the recent election. At the May 18 meeting (his second), he showed the kind of select board member he intended to be by providing the board with a list of average or typical dump fees he'd compiled from many local transfer stations, to be used to inform the imminent dump-for-fee policy to be instituted in Monterey.

Discussion moved around how to charge, what to charge, what constituted

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a full pickup truck, per-barrel rates, rates for tires without rims, and tires with rims, definitions of "bulky waste," and many of the overall complications and challenges of organizing garbage. Mr. Weisz suggested taking only credit cards or checks, no cash, and thought that a wireless mobile device such as an iPad, outfitted with a Square credit card account, listing common dump items icons (mattress, chair, etc.) on a touch screen menu would permit an attendant to manage the charges with a minimum of confusion. (For the upcoming summer, however, only bulky waste and tires will have separate fees attached to them.)

An job description for hiring a new transfer station attendant hire was discussed at length, and it was hoped, would be posted "immediately" on the website and in the *Shopper's Guide*.

Second-Home Owners

The board reminded the town that the second-home owner's meeting would be held August 8, at 10 a.m. in the town hall.

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Special Town Meeting
WiredWest

At a May 8 special town meeting, town residents assembled in the fire house to vote on an authorization for the town treasurer to borrow up to $1.967 million towards the WiredWest initiative. Monica Webb, chairman of the board of directors of WiredWest and a Monterey resident ,gave a presentation to listeners before the vote was held.

Webb explained the purposes of WiredWest, describing it as a way to connect digitally underserved towns in western Massachusetts to high-speed internet. She stressed the need of all residents to have access to affordable internet and data utilities and described benefits that would accompany a fiber network, including better education, better medical technology to enable aging-in-place of residents, with access to a better quality of living, and a more attractive setting to live and work.

WiredWest will be financed through a $40 million grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, $18 million of which is for regional network costs (such as engineering and equipment), and $22 million to be divided between those towns that have voted to join the network by the end of June 2016. At this point it looks like perhaps thirty-two towns will try to join the network. The $1.967 million from Monterey is meant to serve as the town's portion of WiredWest funding.

Explaining the benefits of a regional cooperative approach to building a fiber network, Webb pointed out that there would be lower costs involved. Money can be borrowed at much lower municipal rates than with private investors, and as a nonprofit, all excess cash can either be invested in the network or returned to the towns. Cooperative ownership of assets would allow for pricing in the best interests of users with a lower operating risk.

Construction will be managed by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute with oversight by WiredWest. Every single residence will have access, and at the time of the meeting, seven towns in the regional network had already reached the 40% threshold of subscribers necessary to move forward with the project. As of publication, Montereyneeds on six more sign-ups to reach 40%, and many nearby towns are at or exceed the 40% rate. Jim Drawe, selectman from Cummington and WiredWest board member, said that when the build-out begins, areas within the region where several neighboring towns have achieved high 'take rates'are likely to be selected for the earliest construction. WiredWest estimates that if all the towns in the network decide to take part, the project will take four years to complete, but that timeframe is likely to be condensed.

After Webb's presentation and a lengthy Q&A session, Steve Snyder moved to end discussion and to vote the question, to enthusiastic appaluse. The authorization passed 130 to 19.

— Jacob Edelman

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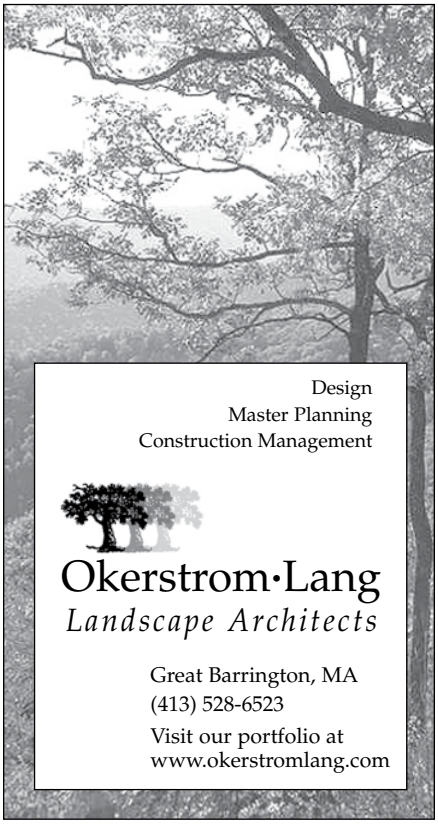

June at the Bidwell House
Talks and Workshop

"This Old House"

On Saturday, June 13, at 10 a.m., architectural historian Bill Finch and architect Steve McAlister will present the discoveries of their eight-month study of the 1700s Bidwell House building. The Bidwell House is one of the oldest surviving homes in the southern Berkshires. Bill and Steve were engaged to conduct a historic structure study, an in-depth look at the building and its systems.

Bill and Steve will explain techniques they used to investigate the house, construction methods, building materials, and what they discovered of its past. They used paint analysis, dendrochronology, and other state-of-the-art methods, as well as old-fashioned sleuthing: a search for photos and stories of former owners. Their findings and techniques will be of interest to all fans of old homes and anyone taking care of or restoring a historic property. The idiosyncrasies of construction they found may relate to other houses found in the early community as well. The historic structure study was funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. $15 per person, $10 for museum members.

"Gender in Early America"

On Saturday, June 20, John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, will open the Bidwell History Talk series with a talk about *Women and Men: Gender Difference in Early America*. John's research has centered on the life of the common people in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century America, be it the community at Deerfield, MA, Cornwall, CT or others. The roles of the sexes have been a particular focus of interest. John will give insights from his research. The talk will be held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, at 10 a.m. $15 per person, $10 for museum members.

"Forest Forensics"

On Saturday, June 27, noted ecologist Tom Wessels will give a workshop based on Tom's book, *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*.This workshop introduces approaches used to interpret a forest's history. Tom will show how evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, allows one to unravel complex stories etched into our forested landscape. This process could easily be called forest forensics, since it is quite similar to interpreting a crime scene.

Participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of cultural and natural disturbances on the land in general—specifically the 192-acre Bidwell House Museum property—and how they have shaped the use and enjoyment of the woods and fields.
- Learn methods and skills to identify and understand these cultural and natural historical events in order to apply this knowledge to their own land or on any walk in the woods. Tom teaches how to see old landscapes with new eyes!
- Be challenged by Tom's unique way of experiential teaching and problem solving.
- Be able to purchase Tom's books.

Tom Wessels is an ecologist and professor emeritus at Antioch University New England. He is the author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Myth of Progress*, and *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*, among others. Tom has conducted landscape ecology and sustainability workshops throughout the country for over thirty years.

Schedule: 10 to 11:30 a.m. talk and slideshow; 11:30 BYO lunch and conversation; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. exploration of the Bidwell forest. Please contact the museum for details and reservations at bidwellhouse@gmail.com or call 528-6888. For workshop and lunch costs, and to reserve, the reservation form can be found on the museum website: bidwellhousemuseum.org. Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey.

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From the Meetinghouse
Memorial Day 2015

Unlike my other "From the Meetinghouse" articles this year, this one isn't based on the name of a traditional quilt block. Instead, it follows another tradition. It honors the veterans who sacrificed so much for our freedom and well-being, especially those men and women who sacrificed their lives in times of war. What follows is the text of my presentation last month at the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans' Park. The first time the committee asked me to speak, it was to represent the meetinghouse congregation at a time when we had no pastor in residence, so I feel comfortable keeping this column's usual heading.

Dennis Lynch

George Emmons and Mary Kate Jordan at the Memorial Day ceremony.

Caroline Pierce

Another Anniversary

This year marks two historic anniversaries. The War Between the States ended one-hundred-fifty years ago. It's also the fiftieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma.

Selma's one of those places that now goes by one name, like Gettysburg. Even bodies of water are remembered this way if they were important in a war. For the Civil War, there's Chickamauga Creek.

That battle was as important as Gettysburg. We just don't mention it much here because at Chickamauga we were routed by the South. Utterly demoralized. Northern troops retreated to Chattanooga, which wasn't just across the creek. It was fifteen miles north. And that wasn't fifteen miles in a humvee. It was mileage men navigated on foot, on horseback, or in wagons.

As I understand it, the Civil War introduced modern warfare to the world. In September 1863 at Chickamauga, the Northern troops carried repeating rifles capable of fourteen shots per minute while the South's weapons delivered only two or three. Nevertheless, the South was victorious there. Later the Gatling gun appeared, but the outcome of the Civil War may well have turned on human habit and frailty, in addition to what the available ordinance offered.

Caroline Pierce

Honor guard, from left to right: Command Sergeant Major Julio Rodriguez, Steve Kahn, Larry Klein, Mark Gerow, Rob Hoogs, and Rob Fredsall.

At Chickamauga the Southern army was commanded by General Braxton Bragg. Bragg, like his Northern opponent Rosencrans, was described as "a difficult man." Suspicious of most officers and troops under his command, Bragg refused to accept his officers assessment after Chickamauga as truth, so he never finished the victory that his men valiantly gave him. He never ordered his men to recapture Chattanooga "while the Federals were still disorganized and demoralized". When Ulysses Grant arrived in the city that November, he took full advantage of Bragg's error and turned the Northern rout into the sea change that would eventually mark the end of the war. (historynet.com/battle-of-chickamauga.)

It would be easy to discount Bragg as an incompetent leader who remained in command by virtue of his friendship with Jefferson Davis. That may be true. His choices may also have been compounded by what today we call post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. For this I refer you to the description of his mental state described in Jeff Shaara's book, *The Smoke at Dawn*.

We're still living in the acoustic shadows of the Civil War, the silent effects of warfare, complicated by continually scaling war up beyond human-to-human combat. War's a human activity, and PTSD, battle fatigue, whatever we call it,

is part of the reality. Even, perhaps, especially now that our weapons don't require human presence at all. Consider today's drones, as well as a sci-fi book, Orson Scott Card's brilliant *Ender's Game*.

Past history, future fiction. What we have is the present. Maybe now's the time to change some habits, commit to new ways to honor our troops. Maybe it's time we say that our responsibility to the men and women we send to the battlefield isn't finished until the wars still raging on their inner landscape are over, too.

—Mary Kate Jordan

About forty Monterey folks turned out at Memorial Park to honor the past war-fallen. Veterans rendered a rifle salute to the war dead, Pastor Elizabeth Goodman prayed with us to soothe the injuries of war, and for the end of all war. Mary Kate Jordan reminded us of the losses of war and life, and our need to care for their visible and invisible injuries. Our own George Emmons eloquently retold the nation's history of war and the Monterey residents who went to war to preserve the nation.

—Julio Rodriquez

The select board would like to thank Camp Hume for their culinary prowess, Rob and Linda Hebert for their use of a golf cart, and all the folks in Monterey who worked on the parade and who showed up to make it such a special day for all of us.

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Caroline Pierce

George Emmons, Steve Pullen, and Dennis Lynch raise the flag.

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Monterey School and District Report

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Monterey town meeting and voted on the annual budget for the school district. The budget passed in all five towns, and we're grateful to be part of a community that values education. The bids on the boiler/ roof project have also come in and are approximately $1.5 million under the projections. The contractors who won the bids are all local, western Massachusetts companies. We are on schedule to start the project before summer vacation and hope to have most of it completed before the start of the new school year.

Bonner McAllester

Proud of their school, from left to right: Grace Makuc, Maple and Ivy Webster, Josie Waiveris, Catherine Makuc (a little behind), Simone Waiveris, and Nadia Makuc.

Keeping Our School Building Open

There was a big outcry when the school committee considered closing the three community schools (Monterey, South Egremont, and New Marlborough Central) a few years ago. The idea was carefully considered and ultimately rejected by the school committee. Since then, many good questions about the viability of the small schools have been raised, and the school committee continues to re-examine the issue.

The first concern was for the capital expenses of the buildings. According to the regional agreement, each town is responsible for the capital expenses, and the district is responsible for the maintenance of the schools. However, for twenty years, the district has not maintained Monterey's building. This resulted in a lot of deferred maintenance and raises the question about responsibility for its current condition.

Earlier this year the town paid for an engineering survey to identify needed renovations, and Monterey voted $10,000 for some immediate repairs. The district administration has offered to partner with the town on some of these projects. Monterey proved that we are willing to look after the needs of the building and made a commitment to house the education program going forward. Assured that the district's capital fund wouldn't be bankrupted by Monterey's needs, the school committee unanimously voted for a second time to keep our education program.

Keeping Our School Program Going

Last summer Superintendent Dave Hastings led meetings with the select boards of the five towns to examine the costs of the community schools. We carefully looked over the costs of each program. Select board members asked exactly what the Monterey program costs the taxpayers in each town and the administration provided detailed information. The property tax cost for a $300,000 property ranged from $30.27 per year in Sheffield to $5.76 in Alford. For Monterey, it is $6.54 a year.

Dennis Sears, the school committee member from Sheffield, ran his own numbers to calculate how much taxpayers would save by closing the Monterey program. Closing our program doesn't mean 100% savings, because there still will

be educational expenses like elementary faculty, transportation, etc. The savings for closing the Monterey school on a $300,000 property runs from $15.17 for Sheffield to $2.25 for Alford. Monterey taxpayers would save $4.22 per year. Mr. Sears made a plea to put this issue of closing the Monterey school back into proportion and focus on larger concerns like regional cooperation with neighboring districts. Mr. Hastings asked the select board members for their feedback, and no one had anything left to say after seeing the numbers. The school committee voted a third time to keep the Monterey program open.

The Way Forward

Enrollment has leveled off in our district over the past couple years but we know that enrollment is declining county-wide. We are concerned about the Monterey school having the capacity for fourteen to eighteen students and only having seven children enrolled. This is not ideal. At the same time, we've had more families opt into the district and move to Monterey—that's why our assessment went up over $200,000 this year. It is important that our town remain an attractive place for young families by having a good plan for the education of our children.

I see a positive and productive path forward. The school district has committed to expanding early childhood education ,and the New Marlborough school is close to its capacity. Meanwhile, Monterey's program has empty seats. I see a path forward making the best use of these two incredible educational resources and working to assure the best start for our youngest students.

The people in Monterey have always shown strong support for our school. We all want a good education for our children that makes sense financially. We want to look at the viability of the program, to question enrollment numbers, and make strategic decisions about when a small school is too small. But having a concrete plan for the education of our youngest and most vulnerable students must be our first priority as we make decisions about the future of the Monterey school.

—Maria Rundle
Monterey SBRSD representative

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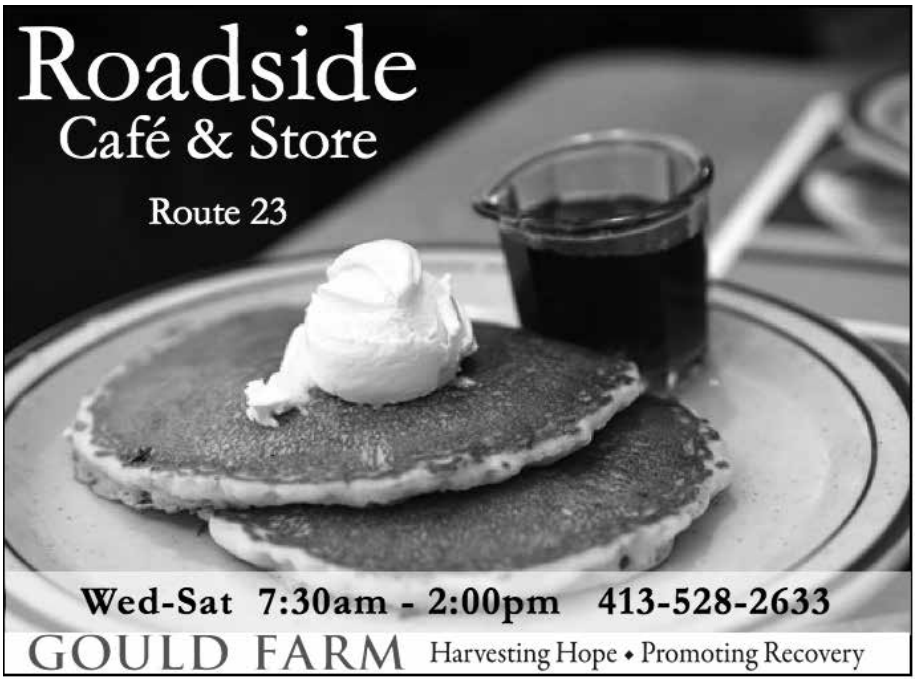

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Town Election Results

On May 5, 213 registered voters (approximately one-third of all register voters in Monterey) voted in the election of town officers. There were two contested seats, fourteen uncontested seats.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Jon Sylbert 98
Steven Weisz 109

Zoning Board of Appeals (5 years)
Susan Cooper 104
Ian Jenkins 91

Uncontested Seats

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Donald Hopkins 172

Board of Health (3 years)
Roy Carwile 174

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Linda Thorpe 189

Finance Committee (3 years)
Bill (BJ) Johnson 185

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
Beth Reiter 148
MaryPaul Yates 154
Susan Cain 22 (write-in votes)

Library Trustee (2 years)
Susan Gallant 105
Susan Cain 49 (write-in votes)

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc 192

Park Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Kelly Tryon 186
Peter Poirier 158

Planning Board (5 years)
Stephen Enoch 145

Planning Board (2 years)
Pat Salomon 180

Town Clerk (3 years)
Jennifer Brown 174

Tree Warden (1 year)
Winston Wilson 187

Cultural Council Programs
June 12 and June 26

The Monterey Cultural Council is excited to announce the very first production of *Monterey's Got Talent*, a free open mic night right here in our town. This talent showcase will feature local musicians, singers, poets, and more, providing a platform to highlight the gifts and passions of a diverse array of performers.

Monterey's Got Talent will take place on Friday, June 12, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the meetinghouse basement. We hope to see you there.

If you are interested in performing as part of the showcase, please reach out to Dayne Herndon no later than June 10, either by email at dherndon@berklee.edu or by phone at 528-1682 for more information.

Then, on Friday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m., The Lucky 5 will be bringing its unique blend of hard-swinging jazz to Club Monterey Underground (a.k.a. the basement of the meetinghouse). The Lucky 5 performs original compositions, puts a new spin on old jazz standards, and throws in a healthy helping of gypsy jazz à la Django Reinhardt, with an infectious swing that delights music lovers of all ages. Free of charge and light refreshments will be provided.

—Monterey Cultural Council

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Steve Graves

For the tenth year, it was the players, ages eight to twelve, against the parents (who wouldn't give their ages) in the Monterey Memorial Day Parents versus Players baseball game in Monterey center. The Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, Great Barrington, and Alford players got off to an 8-2 start after two innings. After multiple errors by the elder team, the 10-run mercy rule was declared after four innings and the Players celebrated another annual victory in Monterey.

Lake Garfield Milfoil Program

First-Year Work to Begin

This spring the Friends of Lake Garfield, with first-year funding assistance from the town of Monterey, and in cooperation with the Monterey Conservation Commission, are about to embark upon an important five-year program to maintain the the health of Lake Garfield. Last year an aquatic plant species called Eurasian watermilfoil (scientific name Myriophyllum Spicatum), commonly called milfoil, was found in Lake Garfield. The plant is considered by freshwater biologists to be highly "invasive" in that it is capable of growing so rapidly that it can stress an aquatic habitat and change the ecology of a water body. Following the planned start of the program during the later part of June, a more detailed reporting will be presented in the July edition of the *Monterey News*.

—Conservation Commission

Steve Graves

Youth Baseball Season Starts Up

Youth baseball for Monterey, Sandisfield, and Otis players ages eight to twelve (pictured above) started the week of May 4 with AAA Blasters games in Lenox at the Morris School and in Monterey at Greene Park, the team's home field. The eighteen-game season runs through June 20 and includes post game cookouts and an appearance in the Monterey Memorial Day parade. South county players ages eleven and twelve play for the Monterey baseball team based in Great Barrington with a home field at the Steiner School. After the regular season, summer baseball continues with informal pick-up games in Monterey on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

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SWIM LESSONS

Anna Zdziarski, Lake Garfield's Head Lifeguard, will hold swim lessons:

- August 3-7
- kids ages 5-13
- Monterey residents : FREE
- out of town residents: only $5

Anna is a Division III college swimmer and has been teaching swim lessons for six years. Sign up sheets will be available at the lifeguard shed at Lake Garfield beginning June 27.

Any questions or concerns please contact Anna at 413-229-3557.

Sponsored by the Monterey Parks Commission

Monterey's Got Talent!

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, June 12th

7:30-10pm

Monterey Meetinghouse

downstairs

music, poetry,

snacks

sign-up with Dayne

by June 10th

dherndon@berklee.edu

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Outside in Monterey's Green Park – Sat. August 1

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Planes: Fire & Rescue

Ice Age: Continental Drift

Happy Feet

How to Train Your Dragon

Lilo & Stitch

Place your vote by calling 528-1443 ext 248
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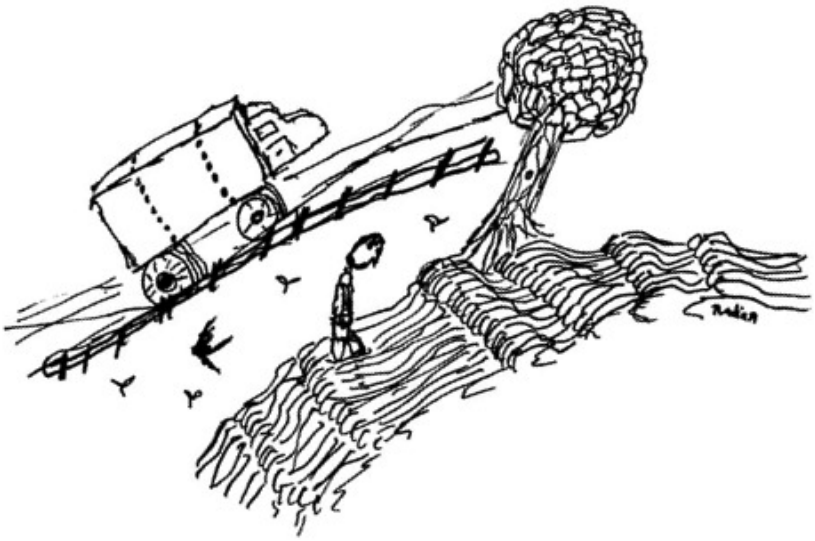
Waiting for the parade. Panoramic photo by Jacob Edelman.



Into the Woods

We run down the hill, free.
Our bare feet, worn by spring's new earth,
Run smoothly across the blacktop.
Silently, we sprint like wild deer down the road and into the brush.
We emerge,
Only once,
Giggling as we run,
Into our own little world of play and imagination.
We pause,
And look around, cautious.
Our eyes sparkle with excitement as we plunge back into the brush.
Our hair, ruffled by the cool spring breeze, catches on branches and thistles,
But we keep on going.
We fly through the forest,
Dashing through the trees.
We don't care or think about anything else.
Because here we are,
All alone,
Free in the woods.

—Charlotte Micklewright, age 11.

A Walk Upstream

"Why don't we walk the brook up to the lake?
Let the dump trucks shake the roadside flowers,
we'll wade up through the woods and get a break
from engine noise at least for a couple of hours."

They pass our house on newly-blacktopped roads
as slow as slugs stuck in second gear
groaning up our hillside with their loads
of fill for the million-dollar homes up there.

It turned out work. Sunlight silvered the brook
and hid the rocks, and we bruised a toe or heel
with nearly every guessing step we took
until we finally lost our walker's zeal.

Those grunting trucks remind me of the day
we walked upstream to have the world our way.

— Don Barkin

I asked Charlotte Micklewright if she would like to write a companion poem to Don Barkin's "A Walk Upstream," and Nadia Makuc if she would like to provide a drawing. Contributions from our younger creators are very welcome.—Editor

June at the Knox Gallery

Knox Gallery's current exhibit, *Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned* is curated by painter/curator/teacher Dee Shapiro and features works by Miriam Dym, Michael Ensminger, Jessica Rosner, Barbarie Rothstein, Karen Shaw, Suzan Shutan, Debra Smith, Audrey Stone, and the collaboration LoVid. The work Shapiro selected from these artists illustrates their use of the tools and techniques of tailoring to create unique works of art. The exhibiting artists, who utilize thread, pins, and fabric—whether sewn, assembled, or patched—to create unique works of art, are based throughout New England and New York and have exhibited at galleries and museums nationally and internationally. This show is full of surprises; please take it in before it closes on June 20.

Monterey residents Tasja Keetman and Michael Marcus will be featured in *clay.light.tea*, opening June 26, with a reception the next evening, Saturday, June 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The artists will speak briefly at the reception, and offer the promise of a special event—a talk and tea ceremony—in July.

Photographic, ceramic, and poetic examples of how Zen influences the artist's creative expression comprise the exhibition. The choreography of these diverse art forms are further visually and emotionally distilled through *sado*, the way of tea (the Japanese tea ceremony).

Maureen Banner

Dee Shapiro at the opening to Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned.

A native of Munich, Germany, artist and photographer Tasja Keetman realizes a dynamic photographic style that reflects exuberant energy. She grew up in a prominent photography family, and "invites equilibrium to the discordant," inspired by her fascination for the beauty of abstract structures, forms, and the ephemeral essence of our existence.

Her photographs generate their own inherent vibrations, transforming them often into painterly, mesmerizing visions. Keetman's projects have been widely published and exhibited in Europe and the US, and have been awarded several prestigious prizes, including the Kodak Award.

Michael Marcus has been a potter for more than forty-five years. He apprenticed as a potter in Japan, studying wood-fired, glazed, and unglazed wares, along with the Japanese tea ceremony and sushi cuisine. His work has been internationally

Tasja Keetman

"Bizen tea ceremony," Michael Markus

exhibited, culminating in two solo shows in Nagoya and Tokyo. His ceramics are collected internationally and used in Japanese restaurants such as Nobu and Hatsuhana in New York City. His special passion is in harmonizing handmade tableware with food presentation, often using his own wood-fired dishes, newly born out of the kiln, to serve sushi delicacies. Proprietor and head sushi chef of Bizen Gourmet Japanese Restaurant and Bizen Kaiseki in the Berkshires, Michael has a gift for sharing his profound understanding of Japanese culture.

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the practice of the Japanese tea ceremony in combination

with other art forms has long been revered by the Japanese

as a path to self-realization

and a catalyst for spiritual growth

that offers the practitioner a transcendental vision of the eternal

The Daoist elements of fire, earth, water, metal and wood

are formed into objects

which in their interaction with matcha (ceremonial powdered green tea)

can become ritual totems that inspire a pathway

to a metaphysical awareness of the liminal

For the enlightened,

the tiny, claustrophobic space of the tea room becomes infinite space

the continuity of space and time, dependent on our physical existence ceases to exist .

In July, the artists will talk more extensively about their work and create a tea ceremony demonstration. Please see the July *Monterey News* for more information, as we need an r.s.v.p. for this event.

clay.light.tea will be on view through August 8. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Tasja Keetman

"Before the Universe," Tasja Keetman

Council on Aging—Cruise on the Erie Canal

(Not pictured above!)

The council is sponsoring two trips that require advanced planning. We look forward to hearing responses to these.

The first trip is on Sunday, July 19, to Wachonah Ballpark on Wachonah Street in Pittsfield. Try to arrive by 4 p.m. We will have a picnic under a tent along the first base line. The cost with the picnic is $20, with the council paying half of this.

The second trip is a cruise on the Erie canal, on Thursday, September 24. We will take a bus from Monterey to Herkimer, NY, where we'll board a canal boat for a ninety-minute cruise. There will be a hot buffet and a visit to a local diamond mine. The cost to participants is $75 with the council subsidizing the balance of the expenses.

The council needs indications of how many folks are interested as soon as possible to hold the space.

Call Maryellen Brown at 528-1598, or write to me at wpurcell@bcn.net.

Hope you can join us.

—Kay Purcell

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june

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JUNE 6 - 28
Paintings by Steve Balkin
OPENING RECEPTION
SAT, JUNE 6 2-4 PM
SAT, JUNE 6 8 PM
Andy Wrba and the Rotten Apples

SAT, JUNE 13 10 AM
Dr. Evers Whyte: New Hope for Chronic Pain - An Integrative Approach
SAT, JUNE 13 8 PM
Common Thread
SAT, JUNE 27 7 PM
SUN, JUNE 28 3 PM
An Exploration of William Shakespeare's Works with the Sandisfield Players!

Lavender and Life

According to the Everything-lavender.com website, lavender has been around for at least two thousand years. Residue of lavender has been found at Egyptian mummification sites and it is believed that Jesus Christ was annointed with lavender by his mother at the time of his burial.

The root of the word is from latin, *lavare* meaning "to wash." It is from the mint family, and there are at least thirty different varieties on many different continents.In the Bible it is referred to as spikenard.

In addition tobeing used for bathing, lavender is used for medicinal purposes, cooking, and to help calm nerves, bring on sleep, and repel insects.

Growing up, my mother bathed with Yardley's English Lavender soap. We had a modest home, and she was affectionate, so I believed the lavender was part of the atmosphere of our home. It was after she passed on in 2001 that I realized how much I had grown accustomed to that scent, that I started looking for how I could incorporate it into my own home. Now I like to keep some dried lavender near the bed all year, but I especially enjoy getting it fresh from the garden in summer.

Wendy Germain has explained how she made essential oils from lavender and shared some oil with us. Glynnis Arbac, who visits Monterey with her family in the summer, says it grows abundantly where she lives in Istanbul. You should harvest it just before it is fully open to experience the peak fragrance, she advises.

Just a few years ago, our dear friend Kay Pratt got a recipe for lavender cookies. They were a basic shortbread cookie with bits of lavender flowers in them. Delicious! We got hooked but did not try to replicate them ourselves until this year at Easter. You can make lavender scented sugar by letting lavender buds sit in with the sugar for one or two weeks, or you can use a blender or food processor to blend the buds into the sugar at the last minute.

I found the following recipe online. You may purchase the dried food-grade lavender from the bulk department of the Berkshire Co-op Market. You might also add a little lemon zest. Enjoy!

Salted White Chocolate and Lavender Cookies

Yield: 20-22 cookies

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

2 tsp. cornstarch

3/4 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar

2 tsp. lavender

8 tbsp. (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature

6 tbsp. vegetable shortening

1 large egg and 1 large egg yolk, at room temperature

6 oz. white chocolate chunks (about 1 1/2 cups)

sea salt, for sprinkling

In a small bowl, combine the flour, cornstarch, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In a food processor, process the sugar and lavender for about 10 to 20 seconds until the lavender is chopped into tiny piecesand sugar starts billowing like smoke up out of the top of the processor. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat together the butter, shortening, and lavender sugar at medium-high speed for 3 minutes. Add in the egg and egg yolk and beat for 3 more minutes until fluffy. Add in the flour mixture and the chocolate and beat on low until combined. Using a large (3 tablespoon-sized) cookie scoop, scoop the dough onto silicone baking mat or parchment-paper-lined baking sheets an inch or two apart. Place the tray in the freezer. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. When the oven has finished preheating, take the dough out of the freezer and bake for 12 minutes. It should look a little underdone when you take it out. Immediately sprinkle each cookie with a small pinch of sea salt (and extra lavender, if you want). Allow to cool for 10 minutes on the baking sheets before moving to a wire baking rack to cool completely.

(Thanks to Rachael Dart for her permission to use this recipe from her website, spachethespatula.com.)

The Bidwell House Bake-Off is happening at Township #1 Day, Sunday, July 5. The Bidwell House Museum requests items from scratch; cookies, pies, and cakes. It is not too early to start thinking about what you might want to prepare. Registration forms will be available at the Bidwell House Museum and at bidwellhousemuseum.org, plus at the Monterey Library by June 15.

Bake, and you might win a prize, or don't bake—come up the hill and enjoy a taste of a neighbor's homemade goodies for free.

—Mary Makuc

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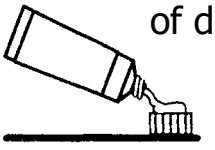
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Route 23 Monterey

Lake Garfield Friends
They Want You!

The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) have been busy as beavers: planning an all-out offensive to stop the dreaded milfoil invasion; raising funds for that offensive; setting up our general meetings where you can join us, hear the news, and speak your piece; and, of course, planning the best MontereyFest ever.

That's all in addition to our usual efforts to keep Lake Garfield healthy for everyone in Monterey to enjoy. With our lake scientist, Ken Wagner, PhD, we test the water several times each summer. We search for zebra mussels. We manage the annual drawdown. We tour the lake and inspect the weed formations. We are looking into a monitoring program at the boat ramp in the hope of preventing transient boaters from bringing in unwanted species, like zebra mussels and milfoil. We educate our neighbors about the negative effects of phosphates, over-worked and under-cleaned septic systems—and lots more.

The first order of business is wrestling with several acres of milfoil, navigating the permit process (don't ask), and raising the bucks to stop the invasion. How invasive is milfoil, you ask? Well, if it were any more aggressive it would be sprouting in your kitchen sink. (Not quite, but you get the idea.) After a ton of research, we have formulated a five-year plan. As we explained at the special town meeting this winter, Phase I will employ divers using suction to uproot, downsize, and ultimately eliminate the acres of milfoil. A harvester will be used in areas that are particularly choked by undesirable weeds. (Yes, there are desirable weeds.) Dr. Wagner has explained that when you harvest the weeds, they grow back the next year, but if you harvest three years in a row, the weeds realize they are in a losing battle and they simply call it quits. This is our basic five-year plan. The cost is—are you sitting down? —$50,000.

FLG has about $15,000 in our piggy bank. The town voted this winter to contribute $15,000. The town's contribution will also help our state grant application, which will provide funds for an analysis of sources of weed nutrients into the lake. This grant will then allow us to apply for another grant, which will help us mitigate the nutrients at sources such as lakefront properties and septic systems.

Lake Garfield is the jewel of Monterey. Its beauty spans the seasons. It provides an array of recreational activities for us all to enjoy. And don't forget that Lake Garfield adds to the value of each and every home in Monterey.

Please become a Friend of Lake Garfield. Send a contribution to FLG, Box 355, Monterey, MA 01245. You can join FLG and/or find more info on our website: LakeGarfieldMA.org

I'm hoping that you're jotting down that address, so while you have your pen out, here are some dates you may want to magnet to your fridge. Our general meetings will be Sunday, July 5, and Saturday, August 8, at the firehouse, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We'd love to see you there. MontereyFest is scheduled for Saturday, August 22.

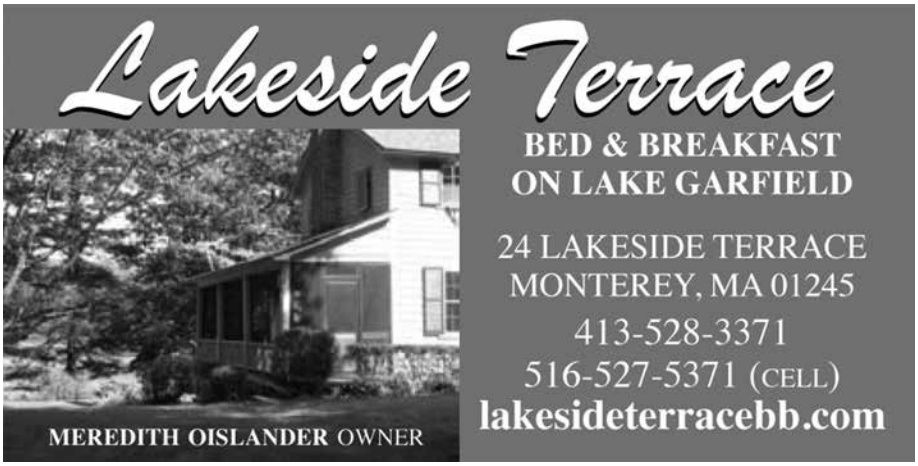
Wishing you all a super spring and summer.

—Hy Rosen
Friends of Lake Garfield

Front Lawn Food
Food Justice in Berkshire County

This season, two Berkshire County organizations working on food justice have joined forces in order to tackle issues of food insecurity facing local families. Greenagers, based in Great Barrington, and The Revolution Garden Project of the Berkshire Community Action Council are selling 4 x 8 foot raised vegetable beds that convert into mini-greenhouses. Each garden bed comes installed with soil, seeds, plants, and all greenhouse materials. Also, with every purchase of a garden bed comes the free installation of a second bed for an income eligible family in Berkshire County. Garden beds cost $600 (this cost includes the cost of the second, donated bed). For a family to be eligible for a donated bed, they must meet specific income guidelines and either have children under the age of 18 or elders over 65 in the household. The beds can be placed on either pavement or soil as they are 16 inches deep; all that is required is a sunny spot. Businesses are also welcome and encouraged to purchase beds.

For more information, contact Greenagers at office@greenagers.org or call 413-644-9090.



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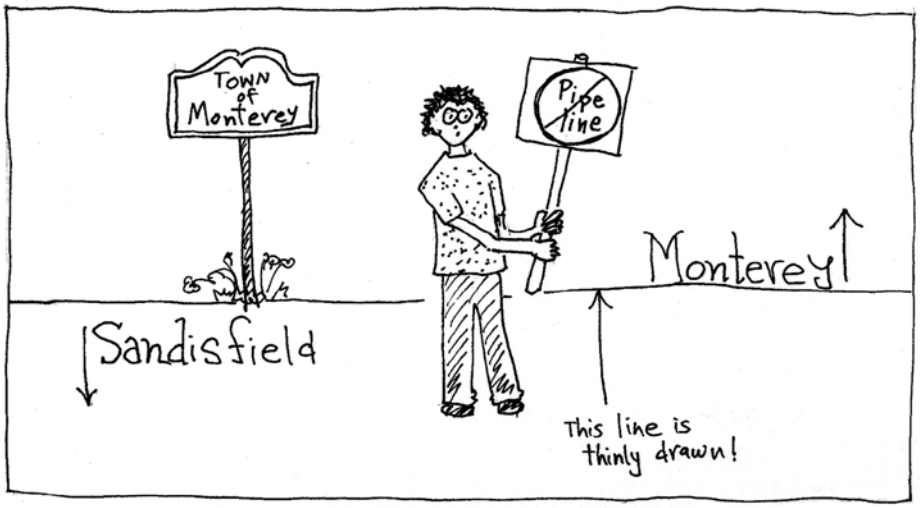
Sandisfield: My Backyard



These days a person can easily be swamped, and I don't mean by cattails and blackbirds. That would be the kind of swamping we could wish for. Instead we are coming up for air in a swamp of concerns, of bad news, of information we may not understand but which sounds like it matters. To keep breathing, head above water, I depend upon some of the standard filters:

What?! This is too complicated.

Where is it? Never heard of the place.

Who? The polar bears? That's heartbreaking. My heart is broken, so I guess I'll not drive my car so much. Maybe not exhale so much CO_2. I'm glad those folks in Seattle won't let the drilling rigs lay over in their port on the way to Alaska. If I lived in Seattle, I'd be up on the tripod blocking access, I'd be getting arrested, I'd be putting my body on the line to stop Shell from drilling in the Chukchi Sea. But I live here. This is my backyard.

Do something? Jump on the next bus for DC? Pack my protest sign and be visible? But I only have half the potatoes planted. Got to cover the tomatoes, frost tonight. We all do what we can do, and this is what I do.

Every day we figure out what we can do, what we can keep up with, from the kids to the kitchen to the woodshed. Such local work is clear and visible. This is my home, my backyard, the place where I do what I do. I see reminders here, results, and sometimes dangers. If I sit and read the news, I see more. I see too much and I reach for the filters.

Lately, I am seeing all the way to Sandisfield and feel my backyard pushing and growing, like it or not. I see a $100 billion company moving in to blast the rocky woods, drain Spectacle Pond, and install a pipeline three feet in diameter and nearly four miles long. This is to be filled with "natural" gas, a storage place for highly combustible fuel for sale to Connecticut, or maybe much farther away than that.

I heard about a gas storage place near Minersville, Pennsylvania, that caught fire and burned for three and a half weeks. I heard about New York State banning fracture mining anywhere in the state but now facing the construction of a storage place for it in the Finger Lakes. This will be in old salt mines underneath Seneca Lake. The project has been okayed by the feds, given a "certificate of public convenience and necessity."

I wonder who is the "public" here. It must be me, with my use of electricity and such and my willingness to pay any price for continuing my lifestyle as I know and love it. Natural gas is mainly methane, a greenhouse gas much more dangerous to the climate than CO_2. Just because it has the word *natural* in it does not mean it is good for us.

clay light tea

tasja keetman michael marcus

June 26 - August 8

Reception & Artist Remarks:
Saturday, June 27, 6-7:30pm

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Monterey School

REGISTER FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Kindergarten: This program is for children who will be 5 years old before October 1, 2015.
Early Kindergarten: An early kindergarten program for children who turn age 5 between October 1, 2015 and May 1, 2016. These are both full-day programs.

Call Rose Glaszcz at 229-8754, ext. 377 or email rglaszcz@sbrsd.org to set up a time to visit the school.

Over in Sandisfield the folks voted at last year's town meeting, "No, we do not want this pipeline built here." Now the big company is pressing its case with the feds, hoping to get the okay, which always seems available if you can just hire the right experts and pay any fees or fines. If the company wins, it will have bought one of those certificates like the one for Seneca Lake. Kinder Morgan Company would rather not have to go through all these hoops of course, not face any delays. There is the chance they will find someplace else to put it where the folks won't kick up a fuss. No doubt Sandisfield looked like such a place. Lots of wild land, not very many folks. This is like the places out west where there's nothing but desert and a few Indians, so let's put the uranium mines there. Let's test the A-bomb there. Anybody objects, we can offer them a deal that helps get their kids to college or puts a new roof on the Tribal Headquarters Building.

Here in Monterey, I can't see the pipeline route from my house, but only because I'm not looking hard enough. It's only because I can't see all of my big backyard from the top of my garden. In early April I walked along the route of another more northern pipeline, the Northeast Energy Direct one that goes along in Massachusetts, then up into New Hampshire, then down again. From where I walked, I could see a lot of backyards, and because I was walking there I could see it was all mine, all ours.

When we say Not In My Back Yard, where are we drawing the line? Do I need Kinder Morgan to decide to get a federal certificate to drain Lake Garfield before I go over and tie my body to the drainpipe? I tried for years to persuade Montereyans not to pull the plug on the lake every winter. I wonder if I'd have better luck with the feds. Maybe if drawdown were being forced on us, and for the installation of an explosive pipeline, we'd all stand together to say no, like the people in Sandisfield did.

Maybe we can start practicing now, by seeing that our backyard is bigger than we thought. Henry Thoreau wrote, "I have travelled widely in Concord." His wide travelling was on foot, at all hours of the day and night, observing and thinking and writing. He took it all in, though he never called it "mine." Something about "mine" carries both responsibility and the kind of ownership that might be exclusive, might put up big fences. We might say, "This is the town line, and over there in Sandisfield you got trouble, but here on the Monterey side we got no problems."

I'll be working on my next bumper-sticker: I am Sandisfield. Or maybe a t-shirt, so I don't have to drive it. Or maybe don't wear it, just do it.

—Bonner McAllester

Maureen Banner

On the chilly Saturday morning of May 23, intrepid participants at the birdwalk presented by the Monterey community center saw and heard some equally hardy birds. Here they watch for the appearance of a Red-winged Blackbird that was singing in the swamp below the community center. (L to R): Sarah Hudson, Mayra Rodriguez, birdwalk leader Joe Baker, Laurie Shaw, and Michael Banner.

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Monterey Community Center News

Our community garden has just received a wonderful donation of a handicap-accessible raised garden bed from Ward's Nursery, Great Barrington. Ward's has been quite supportive of the garden from its inception with donations of tools and seeds. They are a fine example of a local business that participates in the community, so by all means think of them when you need plants or garden supplies.

We are hosting a series of outdoor programs on the property this summer.

June 13–Yoga with Connie Wilson from 11:30 to 1:30.

June 20–beginning at 10 a.m., spend the day painting "visionary landscapes" with Kit Patten (call 528-1144 to pre-register.)

June 27–Yoga with Tracy Remelius from 10 to 11.

And be sure to save your items for donation to our tag sale (July 11)—we'll be posting drop-off dates shortly.

Construction at the Wilson McLaughlin House will be continuing throughout the year—currently the yard boasts a large hole where the footings and foundations for the new entryway and access ramp will be located, but that will be backfilled soon, and you will be able to visit the building to see how it is coming along.

Tryon Construction has created an excellent exterior drainage system and done some preliminary landscaping for us. Shortly the new gutters will be in place, collecting rainwater for storage in the two cisterns for the community garden. The electrical service is about to be installed, and we are looking forward to progress on the interior carpentry during the summer.

With your help, we will be able to wind up the final construction details this year. Then we'll all be able to use the space for our meetings and functions. The Council on Aging, Historical Commission, Cultural Council, and School Committee as well as town boards and any and all citizen groups will be welcome to schedule time in the center.

In addition to checking our website for information (ccmonterey.org), don't forget to follow us and like us on Facebook. We welcome your contributions by mail (Box 302) or through our website.

Thank you.

—Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

Joe Baker

Codgers in the hole! (Mike Banner and Eric Pederson)

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Conrad Ohman

Beartown State Forest
Brett Road Hike, June 14

On this walk, we will explore a section of the Beartown State Forest to rediscover a long lost colonial road and a variety of stone structures, including three foundations. The third foundation we will see is attributed to Langdon on the 1876 map, but the first and second foundations do not appear on any known map. Are these from outbuildings such as a barn or pen or, more likely, a house and associated barn? By paying attention to vegetation and man-made artifacts, we will try to recognize signs of residential and agricultural use in this now 100% forested site.

Signs or sightings of deer, moose, bear, coyote, beaver, porcupine, turkey, partridge, squirrels, and a variety of songbirds are possible in this area. Along the way, we will pass through a variety of forest conditions and see evidence of recent forest harvests.

This will be a moderately easy bush whack of 1.5- to 2-miles wandering in a cross-country loop, so expect some brush, some wet soil, and some rocky areas. Dress accordingly and bring water and snacks.

We will meet at the intersection of Beartown Mountain Road and Brett Road at 1:45 on Sunday, June 14. The hike will begin shortly after 2 and is expected to last two or more hours. Early arrivals can explore the remnants of the Chadwick tavern, a.k.a. the Burgoyne house.

This is a repeat of last September's rainy day hike.

—Conrad Ohman
Retired state forester

ॐ

Bidwell House Museum
Township No. 1 Day, July 3

Township No. 1 Day, the free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history, is coming back, this year on Friday, July 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday is the legal holiday for this year's Independence Day weekend. Everyone is invited. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon:

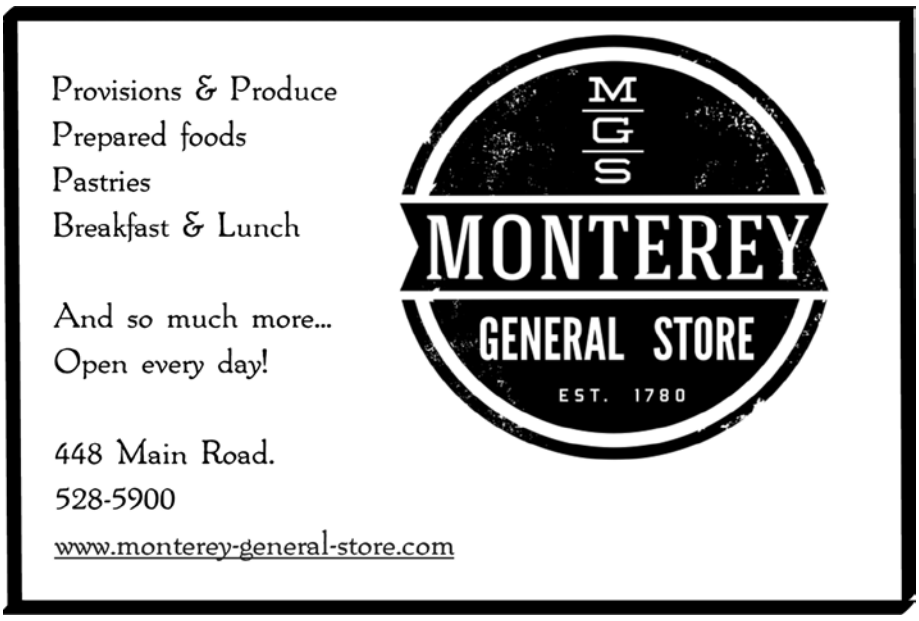
- Live music by local musicians
- Colonial re-enactors demonstrating 1700s camp life
- Crafts, games, and face-painting for kids
- A baking contest, this year competing for best cookies, cakes, and pies
- Craft demonstrations
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend a fun afternoon at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. Enter a pie, cookies ,or cake in the contest! All events are free, thanks in part to the support of a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.

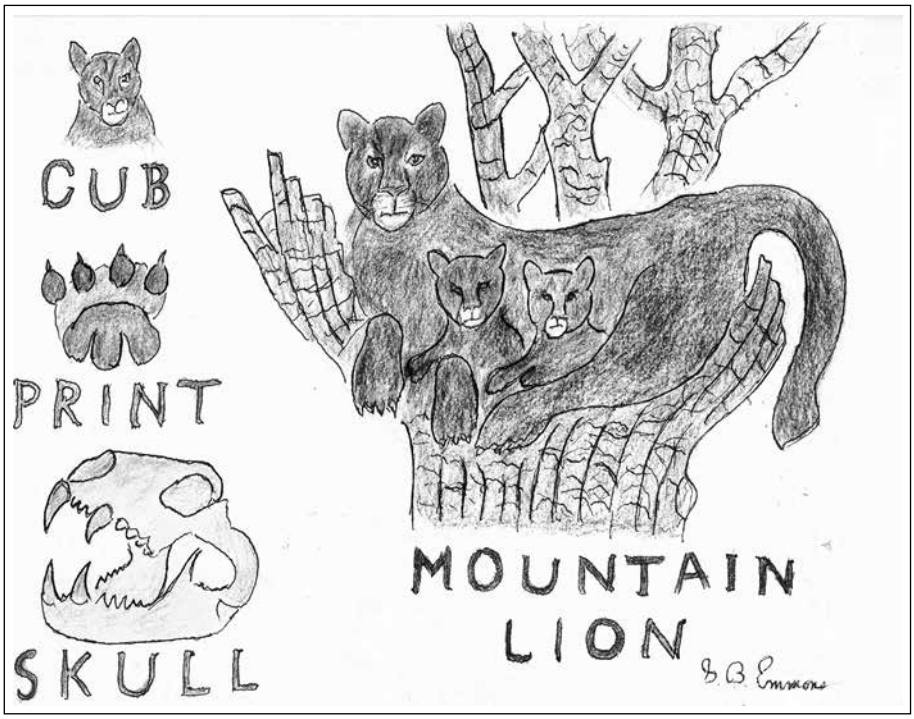
Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.



Mountain Lion Mania



It was almost twenty years ago! The *Monterey News* was among the first small-town newspapers to cover local mountain lion sightings (in the late David McAllester's wildlife column). With his encouragement, I wrote three articles over the years based on frequent Monterey sightings by John Field, Pete LePrevost, Anson Olds, Gige O'Connell, Jan Emmons, and Marty Clarke. Autumn brought reports from deer hunters in tree stands. Gradually people in southern Berkshire County began driving down country roads hoping to see one. All the while, for good reason, state and federal authorities maintained that they did not have enough evidence to confirm regeneration of an endangered species.

With federal and state denial, public interest piqued, and casual conversation evolved into what I called "mountain lion mania." One of the problems was proof of identification. The cat is both camera-shy and people-shy, known as the "phantom of the forest." But a seven-foot-long tawny-colored cat with a long tail leaping across Main Road in just two bounds leaves a lasting, if fleeting, impression. Like all cats, they are very curious, always seeing you before you see them, and watching people in their domain, knowing where they are and when they leave. And yet they are so solitary as to be unapproachable.

For one thing, the anatomy of their perceptive senses is very different from other wild cats. In Simon Winchester's recent book on skulls, he tells us that the mountain lion has extra long parietal bones that reach forward over the frontal bone on each side of the skull with large orbits relative to skull size. These formations house large eye and ear structures. Their eyes are highly adapted to low levels of light and are quick to detect the slightest movements or sounds anywhere around them. They are also largely nocturnal, hunting from dusk to dawn. During the day they climb trees (as in my illustration), dropping down from perches to feed on deer, rabbits, and rodents when dusk arrives.

A mountain lion is also called cougar, catamount, or puma, in different regions. They may travel one hundred miles or more from where they were born and up to twenty-five miles in a day, making their appearance unpredictable and giving them a variable range of habitats. The exception to this roaming behavior is a female with small kits.

An adult female may have two or three kits every few years. Official confirmation of regeneration of an endangered species is still a long way off. Do we want more mountain lions or fewer? Many scientists and others believe the presence of a few lions is beneficial for the deer herd, but not many sportsmen see it this way.

Mother Earth has a way of recovering from the devastation of pollution and extinction. In Monterey alone, twenty years has witnessed the proliferation of wild turkeys, coyotes, beavers, and black bears, along with more white tail deer and moose. Hunting and trapping restrictions may be partly responsible but are not always considered beneficial. When it comes to such a large, stealthy predator as a mountain lion, we should learn to be careful what we wish for.

The *Monterey News*, as a flagship of the region's small town news media, continues to provide an environmental awareness of the mania that to this very day still haunts the Berkshire landscape.

—George B. Emmons

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Contributors
May 2015

During the month of May the *Monterey News* was delighted at the strong showing of support in response to our annual fund raising appeal. It's always a good time to donate keeping in mind that your donations pay for two-thirds of the cost of producing the "free" monthly paper. Thank you very much.

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Gail Kotler
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Charleen Lambert
Rick & Karin Moskal
Laura Dubester
Michael Rood
Laurie & Bernie Student
Judy & Simeon Brinberg
Roger Kane
Paula & Bill Harris
Pat & Richard Edelsteinz

Wildlife Report
Mid-April to Mid-May

Eric Martin recently saw a mountain lion crossing Wellman Road. "It moved like a cat and was much bigger than a bobcat." Barbara Dahlman called to say she had seen one, too. It crossed Tyringham Road about dusk and Barbara especially noticed its eyes and its long tail.

People often wonder if what they've seen is a bobcat (wildcat) or a mountain lion (cougar, panther, catamount). B.J. Johnson has gotten some photos of a lion or lions on his motion-sensing camera, and George Emmons has seen lions cross the road near Ray Coddington's house on West Otis' Tyringham Road. Ray also has found a complete bear skull (below) at his place, which he has donated to the fish hatchery where anyone can go see it in the natural history collection there.

Suzanne Sawyer wrote to tell of hummingbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at her feeders. Then someone furry and much bigger also came for birdseed and Suzanne had to take her feeders down. Kit Patten called in mid-May to say the Baltimore Oriole is back in the apple tree, also a hummingbird. Earlier in the month, Kit saw a Red Fox, which was actually "bushy and blonde," about twenty feet from the house. The fox, which had a spectacular tail, was relaxed and inspecting the compost.

Send me your wildlife accounts and sightings. Many thanks.

— Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

Ray Coddington

Carol Ingher

The *Monterey News* has learned of the passing of Carol Ingher, 74, on May 21. An obituary is available from finnertyandstevens.com, and will appear in the July issue. If anyone has a good image of Carol, this paper would very much appreciate getting a copy to publish in rememberance along with her obituary. (See page 27 for contact information.)

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. We use this page each month in the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. We welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

Meetings and events

Board of Health: Mondays, June 1 and 15, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, June 9, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesdays, June 10 and 24, at 10 a.m.

Free blood pressure clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, June 11, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, June 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m. by appointment (please call 528-1598) All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, June 3, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, June 11 and 25, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda

Select Board meetings: NEW MEETING TIME: Mondays, at 4:15 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda

Office/Town Hall Closings

The administrative assistant's office will close at noon on June 3 and will be closed June 4 and 5 and on June 19. Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

The town clerk's office will be closed on June 11.

Senior Work-Off Tax Abatement

It has come to our attention that not everyone in town is aware of the Senior Work-Off Tax Abatement program eligible to any Monterey property owner over the age of sixty. This program allows seniors to volunteer in town and receive up to $1,000, which can be applied as a reduction to the residents Monterey property tax in the following fiscal year. Currently there is an opening in the town clerks office as well as at the transfer station. For more information, or to apply for the position in the clerks office, please contact Jen Brown at 528-1443 x113. For more information on the position available at the transfer station please contact Scott, Kenn, or Steve at their new email addresses, scott@montereyma.gov, kenn@montereyma.gov, and/or steve@montereyma.gov

Bulky Waste Fees

Beginning July 1, 2015, the town of Monterey will be reinstituting fees for bulky waste at the transfer station. The following is a schedule of those fees:

- The first trash can containing bulky waste (construction debris and items that will not fit in your kitchen trash can) will be free. Additional barrels will be $5 per barrel. A truckload or small trailer (4x8) will be $20.
- Tires without rims will be $5 each.

A credit card system will be setup to accept payments. Before then only checks to dispose of bulky waste, NO CASH.

If you haven't already signed up to receive weekly updates from the town hall please go to www.montereyma.gov and click on "Subscribe to News" in the left-hand menu and follow the instructions to sign up. In addition to updates on what's happening in Monterey, we will also be posting a construction schedule for the Route 23 construction project.

—Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
www.montereyma.gov

New Marlboro Rd. Bridge Closing

The MA Dept of Transportation has issued an emergency closing order for the New Marlboro Road bridge.

A resident alerted the director of operations to his concerns about the condition of the under-bridge supports. An onsite inspection led to a call to the DOT for an official emergency inspection. That inspection led to the closing order.

We understand the difficulty that this presents to the residents and are taking the following steps:

1. Our highway crew will be working on Wallace Hall Road to make it safe for vehicle travel as a detour alternative.

2. Signage will be put up indicating the detour route.

3. Discussions have already started with the DOT about the possibility of a temporary bridge while structural plans for a permanent replacement are formulated.

Although we will try to push this through as quickly as possible, this may be a long process. We will keep you updated as plans proceed.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Dept.: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
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Post Office: 528-4670
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult softball. Batting practice at 10, games 10:30, Greene Park.

Every Monday except holidays: Select board meetings, 4:15 p.m. town hall.

Tuesdays, June 2, 9, 23, 30: Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., town hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Through Saturday, June 20: *Tailored: Stitched, Patched, Threaded, & Pinned,* A group exhibition curated by Dee Shapiro, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 16.

Sunday, June 7: Bidwell House gardening program. Contact Bidwell House Museum for more information.

Tuesdays, June 9 and 23: Sewing circle, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Thursday, June 11:

Council on Aging, foot care clinic, 9 to 11:30 a.m., town hall meeting room. Call Maryellen Brown at 518-1598 for an appointment.

Health Promotion program with VNA, 2 to 3 p.m., town hall meeting room.

Friday, June 12: *Monterey's Got Talent*, 7:30, meetinghouse basement. Sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 12.

Saturday, June 13:

"This Old House," 10 a.m., Historic study of 1700s Bidwell house. Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road. See p. 7

Outdoor yoga, with Connie Wilson, 11:30 to 1:30, Monterey Community Center. See p. 22.

Common Thread, Sandisfield Arts Center, 8 p.m. See p. 17.

Sunday, June 14: Beartown Mountain hike off Brett Road, 1:45 p.m., led by Conrad Ohman, retired state forester. See p. 23.

Thursday, June 18: Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey town hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Saturday, June 20:

Bidwell Museum History Talk, "Women and Men: Gender Difference in Early America," 10 a.m., Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. See p. 7

Visionary Landscape Painting with Kit Patten, 10 a.m., Monterey Community Center. See p. 22.

Lenox Contradance, live music by Anadama, with calling by Sue Petrick, 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 413-528-4007.

Monterey News July deadline.

Friday, June 26:

Opening for *clay.light.tea* Exhibition of pottery by Michael Marcus and photographs by Tasja Keetman, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p.16.

Lucky 5 Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m., Monterey meetinghouse basement. Sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 12.

Saturday, June 27:

Outdoor Yoga with Tracy Remelius, 10 to 11 a.m., Monterey Community Center. See p. 22.

"Forest Forensics", Ecologist Tom Wessels will conduct a day-long workshop based on his book, *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*. Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road. See p. 7.

clay.light.tea reception and artists talks, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p.16.

Monday, June 29: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *Being Mortal*, by Atal Gawande.

Save the Dates

July 5: Township No. 1 Day, Bidwell House Museum. See. p. 7.

July 11: Monterey Community Center tag sale. See p. 22.

July 19: Council on Aging Wachonah picnic gathering. See. p. 17.

July 25: Monterey Fire Company Steak Roast. See p.14.

Appalachain Trail Conservancy Hikes;
July 12: Ice Gulch, off Lake Buel Road.
July 25: ATC Hike and Picnic, Beartown mountain state park. Details in July *Monterey News*.

August 1: Family Movie Night, Greene Park. See p. 14.

August 8: Second-home owners meeting with select board, 10 a.m.

August 22: MontereyFest.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Nadia Makuc, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 20;
George Emmons, p. 24.

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